



2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Payette National Forest

A huge thank you to our sponsors!

Having a great team of sponsors for getting the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree to Washington D.C. is critical. Not only do these sponsors share in the expense of the project, but through their sponsorship the tree truly becomes a gift from the state of Idaho and the “people’s tree.”

We thank these sponsors that are currently on board and we look forward to having more join us in the near future!

2016 Sponsors & Partners



The Payette National Forest has a challenge cost share agreement with non-profit Choose Outdoors. This is a big project which we could not accomplish



with the generous support of our partners. Choose Outdoors works with businesses and corporations, both locally and nationally, to secure donations of cash or goods and services that

make the success of the project possible. Choose Outdoors has a mission of helping to unite the many diverse interests using our public lands – a great fit for partnering with for the Capitol Christmas Tree.

What’s happening right now?

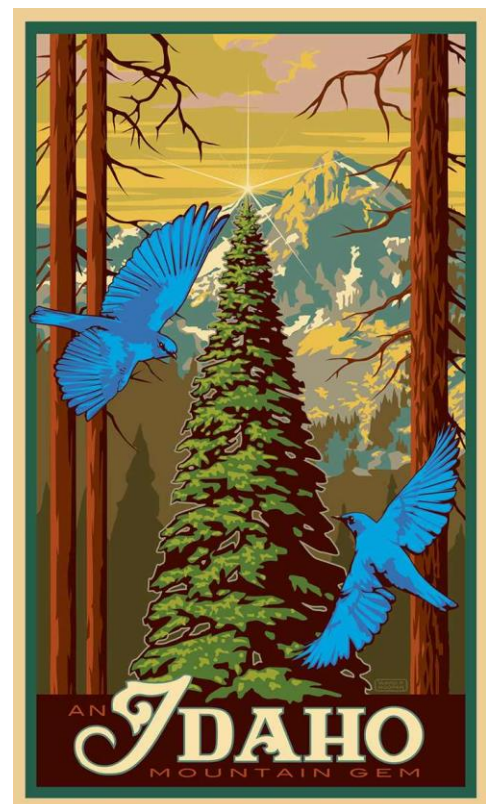
A ton of behind the scene work is being done by members of the Payette National Forest project team. Regarding outreach, please watch this video provided by KTVB Channel 7, Idaho’s News Channel and the Presenting Level Sponsor at the Star Garnet Level for the 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.



CLICK IMAGE ABOVE TO PLAY. KTVB, Channel 7 highlight reel.

Ward Hooper Poster Art!

Our logo artist Ward Hooper became a sponsor when he offered to develop “poster art” for the project. Ward, a native of Idaho, lets his artwork convey how Idaho continues to inspire him.



Ward's poster art for the project is available for a donation of \$20 to the project and can be received at various locations. For information on how to donate and receive the poster art, contact Bruce Ward at bruceward1@gmail.com For more of Ward's uniquely Idaho art, visit his website at: www.wardhooper.com

Ward also hosted a reception at his downtown Boise gallery to unveil his poster art. Many people were in attendance including a visit from Idaho's Governor, Butch Otter.



Idaho's Governor Butch Otter with sponsors from Telaya Wine Company and Woodland Empire Ale Craft attended the reception at Hooper's gallery

State of Idaho Resolution for Support of the 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

Terry Gestrin, State of Idaho District 8 Representative, sponsored a resolution during the Idaho Legislative Session. Passed by both the House and Senate, the resolution encourages Idaho to support the project and truly make the tree "a gift from the state of Idaho."

Idaho's First Lady Lori Otter has joined us in the campaign by helping to connect Choose Outdoors with corporate Idaho and Idaho Legislators. She also will be encouraging Idaho children to make an "I'm an Idaho Kid" ornament. These cute ornaments are made in the likeness of the child and are made of 100% recyclable materials.

She will help us select the final tree in July and has volunteered to author another book of her "Ida" stories that feature a young girl named Ida who explores Idaho.



In this book, Ida will explore the entire campaign of the 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Governor Butch Otter will join us at various times throughout the campaign to lend this support in showcasing Idaho to the nation.

Events & Tree Tour Stops along the Way to the Capitol

Stay tuned for information about events that Idaho residents can participate in. Our next big event will be Christmas in July that will take place here in McCall as part of the City of McCall's Fourth of July weekend. At this event, families will be able to make Christmas tree ornaments and learn more about the project.

A part of our events will be informing members of the public about public lands through the use of the "It's All Yours Campaign." Watch this video for a preview.



Once the tree is cut from the Forest, it will make a trip through Idaho, then across the county with stops in communities along the way. To date we have a tentative route and tentative dates for the community stops.



Again, these are tentative and may change as logistics are worked out and we get closer to the holiday season. Gary Amoth Trucking from Twin Falls will transport the tree, and the companion trees and ornaments to Washington D.C.

Date	Event
Wed/Thurs. – Nov. 2 or 3	Tree Cutting
Fri/Sat. – Nov. 4/5	Tree Wrapping for transport
Saturday – Nov. 5	Tree Celebration in McCall (noon to 2pm)
Sunday – Nov. 6	Local events to be determined
Monday – Nov. 7	Idaho Tour Day #1 – Boise
Tuesday – Nov. 8	Idaho Tour Day #2 - Weiser and Council
Wednesday – Nov. 9	Idaho Tour Day #3 - New Meadows – Grangeville
Thursday – Nov. 10	Idaho Tour Day #4 - Lewiston – Moscow
Friday – Nov. 11	Idaho Tour Day #5 - Coeur d’Alene - (Veterans Day)
Saturday - Nov. 12	Idaho Tour Day #6 – Salmon
Monday – Nov. 14	Idaho Day #7 – Idaho Falls and Twin Falls
Tuesday – Nov.15	Cross-country stop: Ogden, UT
Wednesday – Nov. 16	Cross-country stop: Grand Junction CO

Thursday – Nov. 17	Cross-country stop: Glenwood Springs, CO
Friday – Nov. 18	Cross-country stop: Denver, CO
Saturday – Nov. 19	Cross-country travel and possible stop: Travel from Denver to Kansas City
Sunday – Nov. 20	Cross-country stop: Kansas City, MO
Monday – Nov. 21	Cross-country stop: St. Louis, MO
Tuesday – Nov. 22	Cross-country stop: Nashville, TN
Wednesday – Nov. 23	Cross-country stop: Knoxville, TN
Friday – Nov. 25	Cross-country stop: Roanoke, VA
Saturday – Nov. 26	Travel to Joint Base Andrews
Sunday – Nov. 27	Joint Base Andrews Event
Monday – Nov. 28	Deliver to U.S. Capitol

The Tree

Many people have been asking if we have the tree selected yet. The answer is no, and that’s ok at this point in time. With the heavy snow fall we received across the Forest this winter, we need spring to continue to arrive so our Tree Crew can get back into the woods.

We have four potential candidates now, but of course we need more. While finding the perfect tree is “like finding a specific piece of hay in a haystack,” if you know where some great trees are located, be sure to let us know!

The tree must come from Forest Service land and we will select 6 to 8 candidate trees. In July the Architect of the Capitol Superintendent of Ground’s will travel to the Forest to select the final tree.

Ornaments

Our ornament team has been busy developing themes for the ornaments. To fully represent Idaho, our ornament themes follow our official symbols from the state such as the Monarch butterfly, huckleberries, Mountain Blue birds, and the Appaloosa horse. Speaking of the Appaloosa horse, do you know where its name comes from?



Parts of northern Idaho and eastern Washington are referred to as the Palouse area with the Palouse River running through there. This horse comes from that area, so hence; a Palouse horse – Appaloosa.



The Nez Perce tribe has developed the breed over the past several centuries and regard the Appaloosa horse

as their own. The horse's most defining feature is their spotted coat, which can be in five precise patterns: blanket, snowflake, leopard, marble and frost. To honor the horse, the tribe has taken on a project to produce 1,200 ornaments in the shape of the horse. We look forward to having these unique ornaments as a valued part of the project!



Photos of some of our ornaments. Potato bags, "I'm an Idaho Kid," and Cutthroat trout.

Visit our ornament making webpage at www.capitolchristmastree.com to learn how you can be a part of the fun! There are plenty of opportunities for kids of all ages to make ornaments that will be taken to Washington D.C.

Another Icon of Idaho - IDAHO POTATOES!

The "Big Idaho Potato Truck" will be join us on part of the road trip that will bring the Capitol Christmas tree to Washington D.C. The Idaho Potato

Commission is a valued sponsor of the 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

The commission was established in 1937 to protect the famous "grown in Idaho" seal. A federally



registered trademark that assures consumers they are purchasing genuine, top-quality Idaho potatoes. Idaho's ideal growing conditions including rich, volcanic soil, climate and



irrigation differentiate Idaho potatoes from those grown in other states.

If you know of anyone interested in becoming a sponsor, please have them contact Bruce Ward with Choose Outdoors; 303-917-1476, bruceward1@gmail.com

Contacts

Our campaign is being managed by four branch managers –Please feel free to contact us if you have questions!

- Brian Harris – Communications, Partnerships and Administration; bdharris@fs.fed.us, 208-634-0784
- Chris Niccoli – The Tree and logistics; caniccoli@fs.fed.us, 208-634-0379
- Kim Pierson – Events; kpierson@fs.fed.us, 208-347-0301
- Pattie Soucek – Ornaments; psoucek@fs.fed.us, 208-634-0812

Visit our website at:

www.capitolchristmastree.com

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